

external employment of ice was always preceded by its internal administration; the former was never used alone; moreover when the lotions or frictions were discontinued before the body had become warm, precious time had been lost and it was necessary to recommence their employment.

"A phenomenon of much interest, is the agreeable sensations experienced by the patients after this treatment; they ask for and insist on the repetition of the lotions and frictions, they drink the cold water, and suck the pieces of ice with inexpressible delight; they reject with a kind of horror all medicaments. Certainly if nature has given to suffering man an instinctive faculty to discover remedies appropriate to the nature of his disease, it can be affirmed that the action of cold is the only one that will always be agreeable to cholera patients, and which will invariably be sought by these unfortunate beings even in their last moments. Even when the termination of the disease was unfortunate, it was still easy to recognise the energetic influence of this method, by the various modifications it exercised on the circulation, the colour and heat of the skin, the quantity and nature of the excretions, &c.

"From the middle of September to the end of October a hundred patients were treated by this method, of which number, sixty-five recovered, and thirty-five died. From the last of October to the 12th of December, forty-two patients received this treatment, of this number thirty-four were cured, and eight died.

"It appears from these authentic documents, that of all the curative methods that by cold has proved most efficacious, since nearly two-thirds of the patients were cured by it, a proportion of cures not yet obtained in any other country.

"The employment of cold has also other advantages. Whilst hot drinks excite only disgust, increase the thirst, and in place of relieving it, produce anguish and agitation; cold drinks, on the contrary, gratify the wishes of the patients, render them calmer and more docile. These drinks also supply rapidly to the system the losses caused by the excessive evacuations."

Under this treatment a prompt cure is often obtained; but in violent cases, an inflammatory state supervenes, most frequently congestion of the brain and chest. These congestions and local inflammations cannot be ascribed, however, to the action of cold, as they supervene after every method of treatment. They demand for their cure antiphlogistic remedies.

The details of six cases treated according to the above method have been given by our authors.

In desperate cases an attempt was made in Vienna to cure the disease by the conjoined employment of cold and stimulants; but of fifty-eight cases, nineteen only were cured.

From the space we have devoted to this work, it will be readily concluded, that we estimate highly its merits. Indeed, notwithstanding the many works which have since appeared on the subject, and the enlarged experience the profession has had in the disease of which it treats, this volume may be consulted with much advantage; and may be ranked among the most valuable contributions to our knowledge of the terrible scourge which has swept over the greater portion of our globe, and is even at the present moment committing its ravages in various parts of our country.

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XXIII. *General Observations respecting Cholera Morbus.* By J. N. CASANOVA, C. M. D. of the Royal College of Medicine of Cadiz. Philadelphia, Carey & Hart. pp. 173. 8vo.

The principal novelty in this work is the recommendation of tobacco smoke as an enema in cholera. Dr. Casanova asserts, that—

"Out of two hundred and five *successful* cases which have been treated by myself and two *other* medical friends of Calcutta almost exclusively with the tobacco smoke, there was not one single death."

We do not feel disposed or prepared, having no experience with the remedy in this disease, to discuss the advantages of this mode of treatment, and will therefore submit the question without comment to the decision of the reader, upon the testimony, somewhat equivocally expressed, it is true, of the author, merely adding that his mode of administering the remedy is as follows:—

"For the purpose of injecting the tobacco smoke into the intestinal tube, I use a patent enema syringe, with two cocks instead of valves, to be moved by a lever, which performs the same operation as an air-pump, (*such as those stomach-pumps made by Maw & Son, London.*) At its *bottom end* I apply the tube to be introduced into the anus, which is to convey the smoke into the intestines: at its *side end* I adapt a large common German pipe, or something like it, but of a good size to hold at least four drachms of tobacco finely cut, and a *good* piece of fire on the top of it." p. 170.

The object of Dr. C., as stated in his introductory remarks, that of making himself useful to suffering humanity, is a highly laudable one, but we must suggest that this object might have been better accomplished had he submitted his manuscript to the revision of a competent person, before committing it to the press. As the production of a foreigner, writing in a language with which he is evidently not familiar, we would be well disposed to overlook "some peculiarities of style and arrangement" in the work, but these peculiarities are so monstrous, as to deter us in some measure from examining the opinions of the writer, being not sure that we clearly comprehend them. We are led to entertain these doubts, not only from the many inaccuracies of expression, of which the brief extracts we have made will furnish examples, but also from the startling character of some of the assertions. Thus, among other statements, Dr. C. avers that—

"Having analyzed the blood of many subjects dead of the real cholera morbus, taken from their bodies from four to twelve hours after death, I have invariably found in it the same proportions of serum as those generally found in that of healthy persons."

Now, this statement, if we rightly understand it, is in direct opposition to the observations of every writer we have examined, and positively the very reverse of what we have seen ourselves.